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January 13, 2000

H.R. 1747 -- THE CONDUIT CONTRIBUTION PREVENTION ACT OF 2000

Dear Colleague:

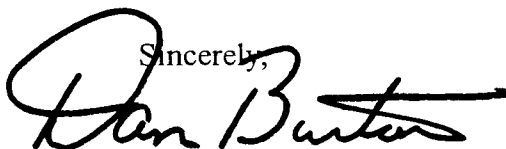
Over the last few years an unprecedented amount of money has come into the American political system through straw donors and illegal foreign sources. Whatever your views on campaign finance reform, there is no disagreement that the true source of all political money should be accurately disclosed. As the *Washington Post* stated on May 11, 1999: "It is well past time for a law that privately addresses conduit contributions as a felony offense."

The attached legislation achieves the following goals:

- ▶ Increases the criminal penalty for willful and knowing conduit contributions. At present, it is only a misdemeanor to make conduit contributions willfully. The attached legislation makes such conduct a felony.
- ▶ Increases the civil penalty for willful and knowing conduit contributions.
- ▶ When the Federal Election Commission establishes probable cause to believe that willful and knowing conduit contributions have been made, it will be required to report this knowledge to the Department of Justice.
- ▶ Closes loopholes which permit foreign nationals to make political contributions. This does not exclude any category of individuals currently permitted to contribute (green card holders would still be able to make contributions).

Currently, there are 50 co-sponsors of this bill, and I would like you to signal your support by adding your name to the list of co-sponsors. If you or your staff have any questions, please call either Jim Wilson or Kim Reed at 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton